

REMARKS

Amended claim 1 is essentially identical to the amended claim 1 which was submitted during PCT, and which is attached to this application in both a German and an English version. The only changes are that the reference numbers in the claim have been deleted, and the “characterized in that” phrase has been replaced with “wherein said”.

Previous claims 2-10 have been canceled, and replaced by new claims 11-42. However, new claims 11-42 are essentially the same as previous claims 2-10. It's just that the new claims have been written as single-dependent claims (except for new claim 42) in order to address various claim dependency issues in the previous claims, and bring the claims into conformance with U.S. practice. Reference numbers have also been eliminated from the new claims.

The essential sameness between amended claim 1 and the PCT-amended claim 1, and between previous claims 2-10 and new claims 11-42, is important because the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) was based on the PCT-amended claims – and the report found those claims to be patentable over the prior art. Thus Applicant submits that the amended claims in this national phase application are similarly patentable. For the Examiner's convenience, German and English copies of the IPER are attached to this application.

Respectfully,



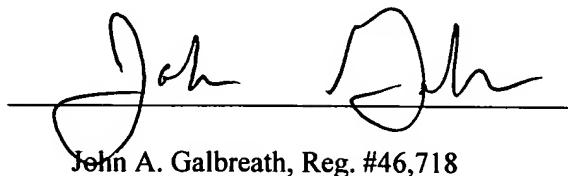
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